

News Release

Performance of One-Act Play "Help Wanted" Slated for Wed., Oct. 20, 2010, at the U of M Crookston; Teatro del Pueblo performs at 6 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium

By Itollefs on Friday, October 15, 2010

In honor of Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month, the University of Minnesota, Crookston will host a performance of "Help Wanted" by Teatro del Pueblo. One of their most popular performances, Teatro del Pueblo will perform the one-act play on Wed., October 20, at 6 p.m. in the Kiehle Auditorium. The play is free and open to the public. Following the performance there will be a time for questions and discussion.

The play, written and directed by Virginia McFerran, focuses on the lives of impoverished immigrants who came to Minnesota to seek a better life and to help their family in Mexico. Three actors playing multiple roles present scenes depicting life in Mexico, a dangerous border crossing, unionizing efforts, detention by the INS, and demonstrations in support of the hotel workers. This satirical piece demonstrates the plight of workers whose labor is needed in Minnesota, but who risk harsh treatment and inequities when trying to fill this need.

The original production is loosely based upon real events that took place in Minnesota surrounding the Albino sisters and their experiences. The stories of the sisters were transcribed through interviews with Dennis Valdez and other members of Teatro Latino of Minneapolis, Minn. The script has recently been updated to reflect the ever-changing immigrant experiences in the United States.



Teatro del Pueblo is a small, non-profit Latino theater located in St. Paul, MN. Fostered by the Latino community on the West Side, it has grown since its inception in 1992 to serve St. Paul, Minneapolis, the metro area and greater Minnesota. Based in the West Side's Latino community, Teatro del Pueblo promotes Latino culture through the creation and presentation of performing arts. Teatro develops and supports Latino artists, provides educational opportunities for all to experience Latino culture and promotes cross-cultural dialogue. For more information about Teatro del Pueblo, visit www.teatrodelpueblo.org.

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. More information is available at www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov.

Today the University of Minnesota, Crookston delivers more than 25 applied-science undergraduate degree programs and 50 concentrations, including several online degrees, in agriculture; arts, humanities and social sciences; business; math, science and technology; and natural resources. To learn more, visit www.UMCrookston.edu.

Today the University of Minnesota, Crookston delivers 29 bachelor's degree programs, 18 minors, and more than 40 concentrations, including several online degrees, in the areas of agriculture and natural resources; business; liberal arts and education; and math, science and technology. With an enrollment of about 1,400 undergraduates from more than 25 countries and 40 states, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere that leads to a prestigious University of Minnesota degree. "Small Campus. Big Degree." To learn more, visit www.umcrookston.edu.

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